




OFFICE OF MAYOR JERRY SANDERS
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

DATE : January 22, 2007
TO : Council President Peters and Members of the San Diego City Council
FROM : Mayor Jerry Sanders 
SUBJECT : Establishment of a Charter Review Committee

In the City's first year operating under Charter Article XV: Strong Mayor Trial Form of Governance it has become apparent there are a number of areas where clarification and fine-tuning would help achieve the original intent of this reform.

In cooperation with the City Attorney's office we have begun to work through some of these issues as they arise, but much more work must be focused on these issues in order to fully prepare for an effective long-term implementation of the Strong Mayor form of governance. I believe we can all agree that when roles and responsibilities are unclear, the business of the public is not optimally served, and that a fresh review of this Charter section is a timely priority.

In addressing these issues, there are four subject areas or questions around which a work plan for the Committee will be set:

- What Charter modifications are necessary to implement the Kroll recommendations and other financial reforms?
- What is a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of elected officials and the separation of powers under strong mayor?
- What measures may improve the functionality of strong mayor during this trial period?
- What legislative tightening would be required for effective permanent implementation of Article XV?

Each of these areas will be explored by a designated subcommittee and addressed concurrently in the Committee's work.

Committee meetings will be held twice monthly and will be noticed to the public in keeping with the Ralph M. Brown Act. Subcommittees working in each topic area are anticipated to meet once or twice monthly as is convenient for their membership and in keeping with their work load.

I will move immediately to empanel the Committee in preparation for them to begin their work on or around March 1st. It is my intention that the Committee complete its work and return its recommendations in readiness for the 2008 election cycle.

Valuing varied points of view, I would like to work with each of you to identify and nominate three individuals who may be appropriate to serve on the Committee from which I will select one from each of your submissions. In addition, I will make a number of appointments to round out the Committee ensuring a representative balance. We are looking for individuals who can be independent, possess scholarly and operational subject matter expertise, those who have experience with previous charter reform efforts and who are broadly representative of our talented citizenry.

In addition to the Committee members, three ex-officio members will serve as support resources and advisers to the Committee; one each from the City Attorney, Mayor and the Independent Budget Analyst.

I look forward to working with you on these issues so critical to our City's future and welcome your support for this effort.

JS:ACH